per annuam. Greater competition, standardization of practices with growing experience, increase in volumes of business, etc. are expected to induce the NGOs to lower the rates of interest on micro credit further.

Non-utilization of foreign loans

171. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have to give Rs. 406.28 crore towards commitment fees in the last three years since it failed to utilize the foreign loans from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The charge levied by the development partner for committing their fund is called commitment charge. it does not necessarily mean as charge levied for delayed or failed execution of the project. A total amount of Rs. 406.38 crores has been paid as commitment charges in the last three years as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Funding Agencies	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Germany	8.99	2.07	1.85
France	0.021	0.00	0.00
Asian Development Bank	38.22	45.10	53.42
IBRD	40.18	36.11	35.71
IDA	5.72	81.82	57.17
TOTAL:	93.13	165.1	148.15

Merger of financially weak banks

172. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are merging the banks which are in financial losses;